

# **FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET**

**Meeting Date:** February 12, 2015

**Agenda Item:** WMA Biennial Public Use Rules

**Division:** Wildlife

**Action Needed:** Final

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 10 minutes

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## **Background**

The Fish & Wildlife Commission adopted a set of public use rules for Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and Wildlife Habitat Protection Areas (WHPAs) in December 2012. These rules are scheduled for updating—if needed—and adoption by the Commission every two years. A brief summary of recommended changes include the following:

- Addition of Fisheries Conservation Areas (FCAs) to the list of properties covered by the public use rules.
- Clarification of public uses and restrictions on FCAs and WHPAs, including pets, riding stock, camping, fires, hunting blinds, and trapping.
- Clarification of camping opportunities and restrictions on WMAs in Region 6.
- Prohibition of exploding targets on all covered properties.

## **Public Involvement Process & Results**

Revised rules were made available for a 30-day public review and comment period, which concluded Jan. 14. Information was sent via an interested person's letter and was posted on the FWP website. No comments were received from the public and no changes were made to the proposed rules.

## **Alternatives and Analysis**

An alternative to what is proposed would be to retain the original unrevised rules. However, as proposed, the rule revisions provide clarification and updates necessary to inform users of general and property-specific regulations.

## **Agency Recommendation & Rationale**

FWP recommends that the Commission approve the public use rules as revised.

## **Proposed Motion**

I move the Fish & Wildlife Commission adopt the proposed 2015-16 biennial WMA Public Use Rules.